



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities

NEH Grant Writing Workshop

University of Utah

March 15, 2016

Stefanie Walker

**Senior Program Officer, Division of Research Programs
National Endowment for the Humanities**

About the NEH



- Tenth Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities: William D. "Bro" Adams
- National Council for the Humanities: 26 presidentially appointed personalities in the humanities.
- Staff



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
Humanities
FIFTY YEARS

NEH 101

- **NEH is funded by you**

“The practice of art and the study of the humanities require constant dedication and devotion. While no government can call a great artist or scholar into existence, it is necessary and appropriate for the Federal Government to help create and sustain not only a climate encouraging freedom of thought, imagination, and inquiry but also the material conditions facilitating the release of this creative talent.”

National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965



Special Initiatives



STANDING TOGETHER
THE HUMANITIES AND THE EXPERIENCE OF WAR

To promote understanding of the military experience and to support returning veterans.

NEH seeks grant proposals that explore war and its aftermath, promote discussion of the experience of military service.

common good
ENGAGE CONTRIBUTE ILLUMINATE

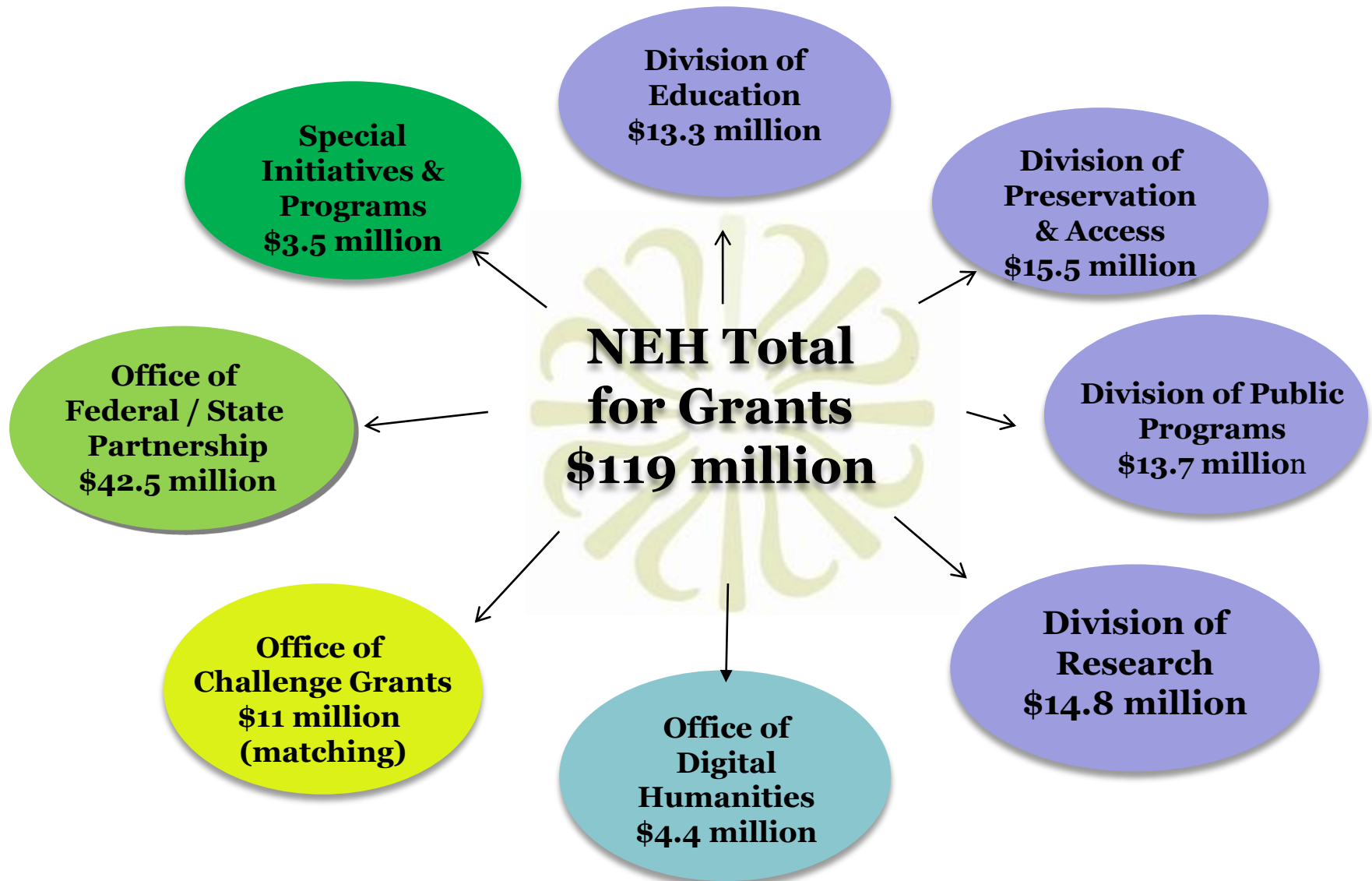
The *Common Good* encourages humanities scholars to turn their attention to topics that have widespread resonance with the American people and that lend themselves to the methods and concerns of the humanities.



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NEH Funding & Divisions

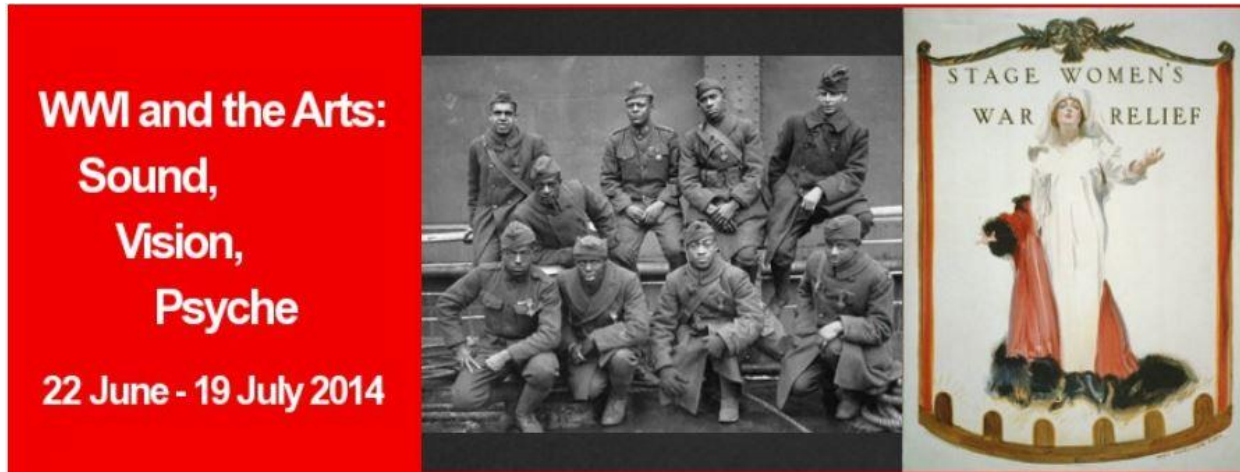


Federal/State Partnership



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
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Education Programs



Grants to strengthen teaching and learning in the humanities in schools and colleges across the nation.

William Rice, Director
(202) 606-8500
Education@neh.gov

Summer Seminars and Institutes

February 25

Landmarks Workshops

February 25

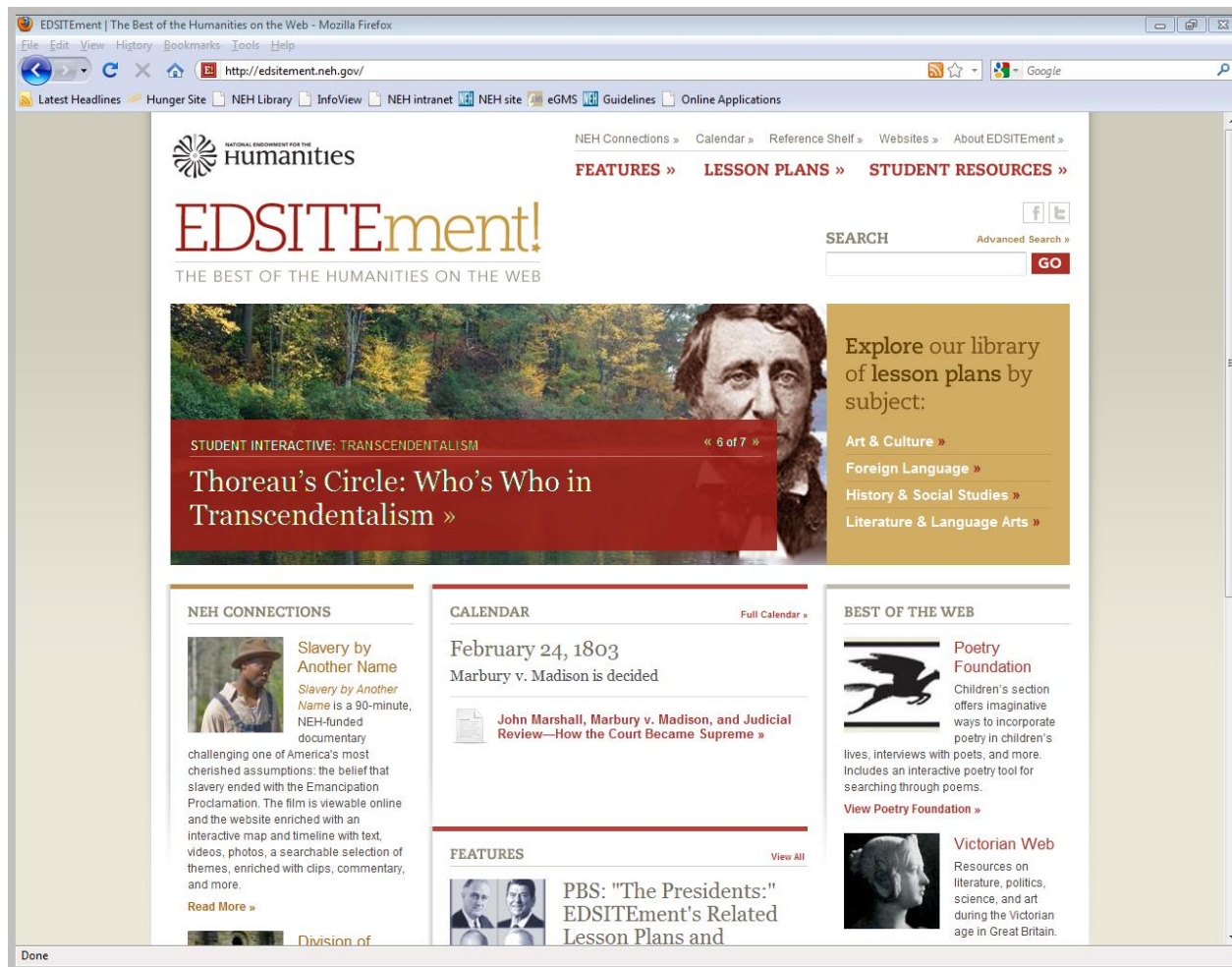
Humanities Initiatives at HBCUs, HSIs, and TCUs June 23

Humanities Initiatives at Community Colleges September 7

Dialogues on the Experience of War September 15



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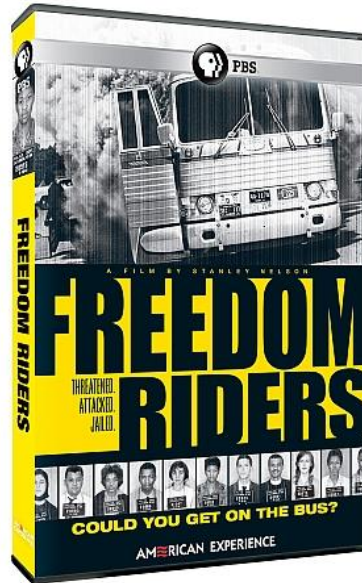
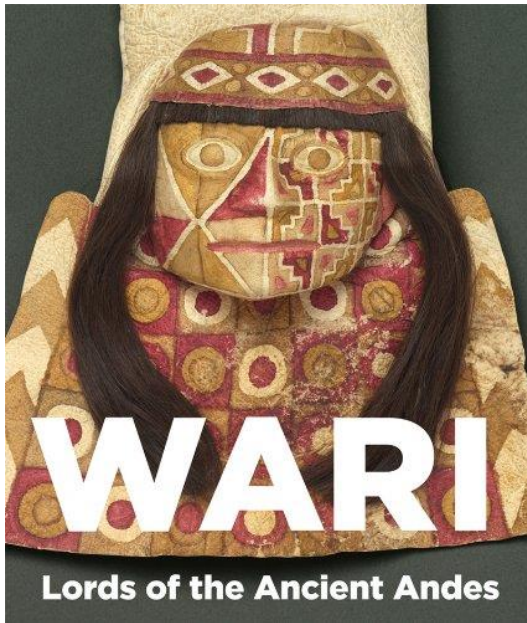


edsitement.neh.gov



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Public Programs



Grants for the presentation of humanities topics to large and diverse public audiences. Grants typically support radio and television documentaries, exhibitions and interpretation of historic sites, reading and discussion series, lectures, and symposia.

Digital Projects for the Public
Humanities in the Public Square
Media Projects
Museums, Libraries, and Cultural Organizations

June 8
June 24
August 10
August 10

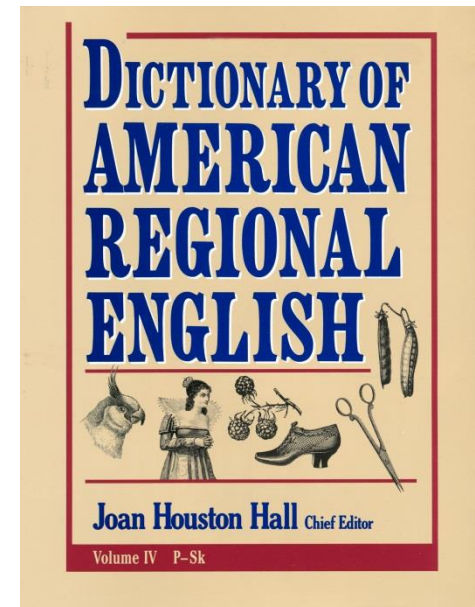


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Karen Mittelman, Director
(202) 606-8270
PublicPgms@neh.gov

Preservation and Access

Grants to preserve archival holdings (including digitization); enhance access to materials; train preservationists; and produce reference works for scholarly research, education, and public programming.



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**Preservation Assistance Grants
Education and Training Grants
Common Heritage**

Research and Development Project Grants

Humanities Collections and Reference Resources

Documenting Endangered Languages

Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections

National Digital Newspaper Program

May 3

May 3

May 12

June 21

July 19

September 15

December 1

January 12



Nadina Gardner, Director
(202) 606-8570

Preservation@neh.gov



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Digital Humanities



Brett Boley, Director
(202) 606-8364
ODH@neh.gov

Encourages innovations in the digital humanities through research that brings new approaches or documents best practices; creation of digital tools for preserving, analyzing, and making accessible digital resources; and examination of the philosophical implications and impact of emerging technologies.

Digital Humanities Implementation Grants
Institutes for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities
Humanities Open Book Program
Digital Humanities Start-Up Grants

February 17
March 15
September 13
September 16



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Challenge Grants



Matching grants
to support major
institutional
goals

Katja Zelljadt, Director
(202) 606-8309

Challenge@neh.gov

Next Generation Humanities PhD Grants
Humanities Access Grants
More to come (check neh.gov for updates)

February 17
May 4



Research Programs



Makes grants to support **individuals and teams of scholars** pursuing advanced research in the humanities that will contribute to scholarly knowledge or to the general public's understanding of the humanities.



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Jane Aikin, Director
(202) 606-8200
Research@neh.gov

For Individual Scholars



Public Scholar Program
Awards for Faculty at HSIs, HBCUs, and TCUs
Fellowships
NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication
Summer Stipends

February 2
April 14
April 28
April 28
September 29*

Fellowships/Awards for Faculty/ Summer Stipends

For individual scholars that support research and creation of:

- Articles
- Books
- Digital materials
- Archaeological site reports
- Translations
- Editions
- Other scholarly resources in the humanities



Fellowships (6-12 months) –
\$4,200/month

Summer Stipends (8 weeks) –
\$6,000

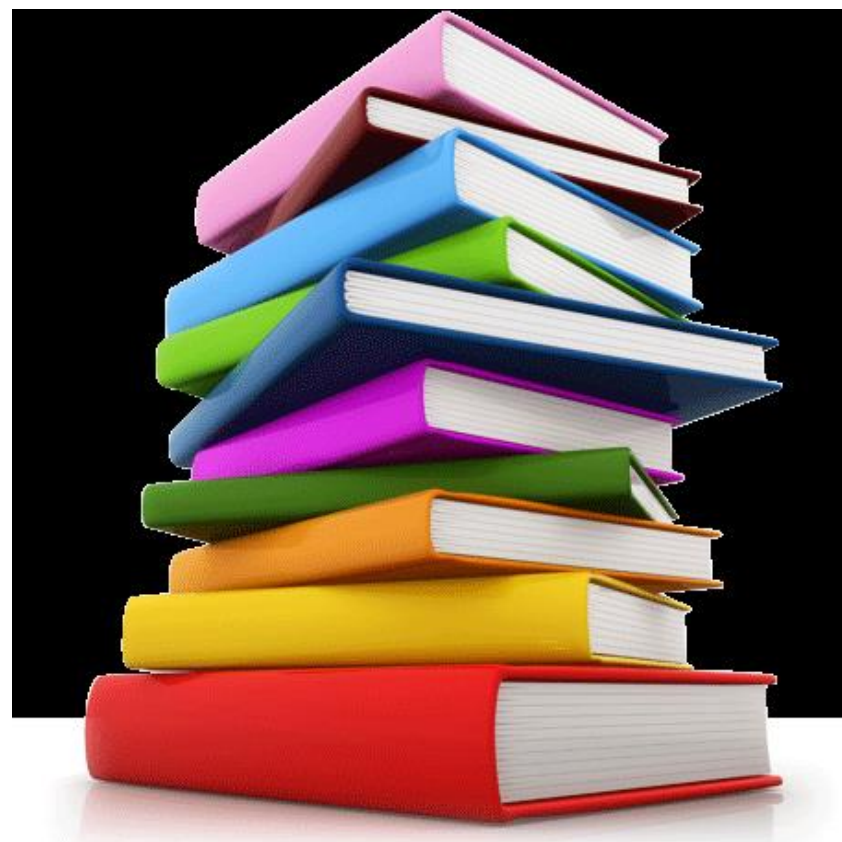


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Public Scholar

The Public Scholar program supports well-researched books in the humanities intended to reach a broad readership. Books supported by this program must be grounded in humanities research and scholarship, must address significant humanities themes likely to be of broad interest, and must be written in a readily accessible style.

Next Deadline: February 2017
\$4,200/month



NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication



The NEH-Mellon Fellowships support high-quality “born digital” research and publication in the humanities.

Deadline: April 28, 2016
\$4,200/month



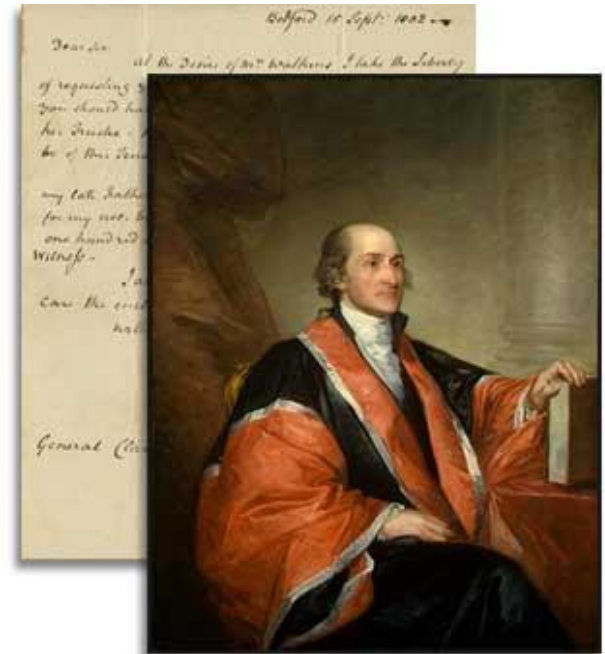
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For Teams of Scholars and Institutions

**Collaborative Research
Scholarly Editions & Translations
Fellowships Programs at Independent
Research Institutions**

**December 7
December 7**

August 16



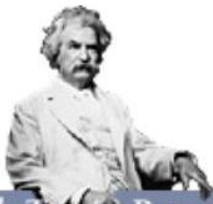
For Teams of Scholars and Institutions

Collaborative Research: December 7, 2016; 1 – 3-year awards; about \$50,000 to \$100,000 per year; NEH staff reads drafts.



Example: The Roots of Creole New Orleans: Archaeological Investigations at St. Louis Cathedral and Ursuline Convent; University of Chicago; PI Shannon Lee Dawdy; grant RZ-50992-09; \$230,000.

Scholarly Editions and Translations: December 7, 2016; 1 – 3-year awards; about \$50,000 to \$100,000 per year; NEH staff reads drafts.



The Mark Twain Papers & Project

Example: Mark Twain Project; UC Berkeley; PI Robert Hirst; grant RQ-50853-14; \$450,000 (\$250,000 in outright and \$200,000 in matching funds).



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National Endowment for the Humanities - Mozilla Firefox

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http://www.neh.gov/

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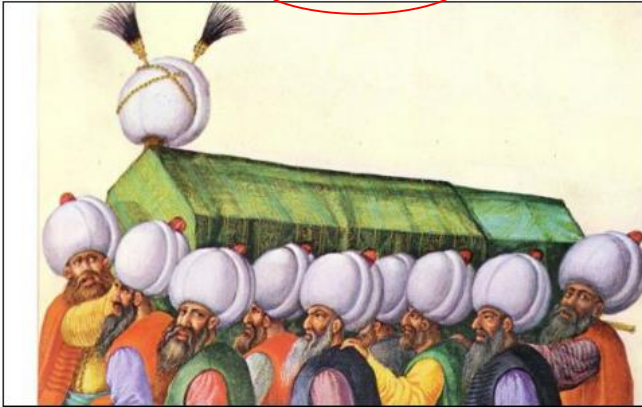
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HOME ABOUT NEH **GRANTS** DIVISIONS AND OFFICES NEWS EXPLORE

Application information

Grant database

Match your project to a program



Captured by Pirates

From his prison cell a Portuguese priest documented the mixing of cultures, languages, and religions in 16th-century Algiers. A new NEH-supported translation of his writing captures a city at the crossroads of civilizations.

GRANTS

FUNDED PROJECTS
Look up projects NEH has funded

SEARCH FOR A GRANT
Match your project to a grant program

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES
Apply for an NEH-funded Seminar, Institute, or Workshop


APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCESS
NEH on Grants.gov
Learn about NEH's review process
Become a Peer Reviewer

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

EXPLORE THE HUMANITIES

Websites, apps, and digital projects supported by NEH grants



Perseus Digital Library

Dive into ancient Greece and Rome with this evolving digital library of texts, art, and archaeology images. [READ MORE](#)

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RECENT NEWS

POSTED: APRIL 6, 2012
[A Life of Results](#)

POSTED: MARCH 8, 2012
[Flap jacks, pancakes, or batterbread?](#)

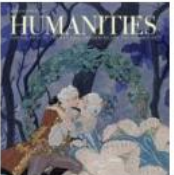
POSTED: FEBRUARY 20, 2012
[The Poetic Nun](#)

POSTED: FEBRUARY 7, 2012
[The Poetic Nun](#)

HUMANITIES MAGAZINE

The Magazine of the National Endowment for the Humanities

[TAKE ME THERE NOW!](#)



Done

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Funded Projects Query Form

Grant number	<input type="text"/>	
Project director	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	First name	Last name
Key words	<input type="text"/>	
	<input checked="" type="radio"/> ANY of these words <input type="radio"/> ALL of these words <input type="radio"/> This phrase <input type="checkbox"/> Whole words only	
Organization name	<input type="text"/>	
State	<input type="text"/>	
Field of project	<input type="text"/>	
Grant program	<input type="text"/>	
Division	<input type="text"/>	
Award date range	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	From	To
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sorting options <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Products, coverage, prizes	
<input type="button" value="Display results"/>		

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Query Form](#)

[NEH Website](#)

Grant data as of 4/9/2012



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A Life of Results

Philip Lampi, a walking encyclopedia of early American election results, received the first chairman's commendation from the National Endowment for the Humanities.



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FUNDED PROJECTS

[Look up projects NEH has funded](#)

SEARCH FOR A GRANT

[Match your project to a grant program](#)

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EXPLORE THE HUMANITIES

Websites, apps, and digital projects supported by NEH grants



Perseus Digital Library

Dive into ancient Greece and Rome with this evolving digital library of texts, art, and archaeology images. [READ MORE »](#)

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POSTED: FEBRUARY 7, 2012

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The Magazine of the National Endowment for the Humanities

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- GRANTS
- MANAGE YOUR GRANT
- NEH ON GRANTS.GOV
- APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS
- BECOME A PEER REVIEWER

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Keep up-to-date with upcoming Grant Program deadlines.

CONTACT NEH
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT
FOR THE HUMANITIES
1100 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20506

General Information
1-800-NEH-1121
202-606-8400

TDD
1-866-372-2930
202-606-8282

info@neh.gov



Manage Your Grant Now.



RESOURCES FOR

- INDIVIDUALS
- ORGANIZATIONS

Grant Opportunities, Application Guidelines, and Resources for Managing Your Grant

SEARCH FOR A GRANT

Match your project to a grant program

Not sure where to start? Use this list as a springboard for finding a grant program that might fit your project.

Filter by Division/Office Applicant Type Keyword(s):

TITLE	DEADLINE	DIVISION/OFFICE
Awards for Faculty at Hispanic-Serving Institutions	April 15, 2014	Division of Research Programs
Awards for Faculty at Historically Black Colleges and Universities	April 15, 2014	Division of Research Programs
Awards for Faculty at Tribal Colleges and Universities	April 15, 2014	Division of Research Programs

GRANTS

MANAGE YOUR GRANT

NEH ON GRANTS.GOV

APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

BECOME A PEER REVIEWER

PRISM FREQUENTLY ASKED
QUESTIONS

GRANTEE COMMUNICATIONS
TOOLKIT



Keep up-to-date with upcoming
Grant Program deadlines.

Fellowships

Like 189 Tweet +1 7

EMAIL PRINT

Division of Research Programs

Receipt Deadline April 28, 2016 for Projects Beginning January 2017



**UPDATED GUIDELINES WILL BE POSTED AT LEAST
TWO MONTHS IN ADVANCE OF THE DEADLINE
LISTED ABOVE.**

In the meantime, please use the guidelines for the previous deadline,
to get a sense of what is involved in assembling an application.

Brief Summary

Fellowships support individuals pursuing advanced research that is
of value to humanities scholars, general audiences, or both.
Recipients usually produce articles, monographs, books, digital
materials, archaeological site reports, translations, editions, or other
scholarly resources in the humanities. Projects may be at any stage
of development.

Program Statistics

In the last five competitions the Fellowships program received an
average of 1,241 applications per year. The program made an
average of 83 awards per year, for a funding ratio of 7 percent.

The number of applications to an NEH grant program can vary
widely from year to year, as can the funding ratio. Information about
the average number of applications and awards in recent
competitions is meant only to provide historical context for the
current competition. Information on the number of applications and
awards in individual competitions is available from
fellowships@neh.gov.

Questions?

Contact NEH's Division of Research Programs at 202-606-8200 or
fellowships@neh.gov. Hearing-impaired applicants can contact

GUIDELINES RESOURCES

Download Application Materials

[Fellowships Guidelines
\(PDF\)](#)

[Fellowships Grants.gov
application package](#)

Program Resources

[Fellowships Frequently
Asked Questions, 2015
\(PDF\)](#)

[List of recently funded
Fellowships for College
Teachers and Independent
Scholars](#)

[List of recently funded
Fellowships for University
Teachers](#)

[DUNS Number Requirement](#)

Sample Application Narratives

[American History, African
Americans who Returned
to the United States from
Canada after the Civil
War \(PDF\)](#)

[Asian Studies, Law and
Custom in Korea \(PDF\)](#)

[British Literature,
Nonconformist British
Women Writers \(PDF\)](#)

[European History,
Emigration from Eastern
Europe to the United
States, 1889-1989 \(PDF\)](#)

[Latin American Studies
The Creole Circus and](#)



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(You will also be sent e-mail notification when each letter arrives.) If necessary, you may also send reminders to your letter writers from this site.

V. Application Review

Evaluators are asked to apply the following five criteria when judging the quality of applications.

1. The intellectual significance of the proposed project, including its value to humanities scholars, general audiences, or both.
2. The quality or promise of quality of the applicant's work as an interpreter of the humanities.
3. The quality of the conception, definition, organization, and description of the project and the applicant's clarity of expression.
4. The feasibility of the proposed plan of work, including, when appropriate, the soundness of the dissemination and access plans.
5. The likelihood that the applicant will complete the project.

Fellowships support projects at any stage of development.

Review and selection process

Knowledgeable persons outside NEH will read each application and advise the agency about its merits. NEH staff comments on matters of fact or on significant issues that otherwise would be missing from these reviews, then makes recommendations to the National Council on the Humanities. The National Council meets at various times during the year to advise the NEH chairman on grants. The chairman takes into account the advice provided by the review process and, by law, makes all funding decisions.

Applications For Individual Grants

Application schedule:

- Annual grant cycle (Fellowships in early May, Summer Stipends in late September) for the following academic year.
- Results announced eight months later (i.e. if you want funding sometime in the next 1-2 years, you should start thinking about it now).

Requirements:

- 3 page single-spaced narrative
- 1 page bibliography
- 2 page c.v.
- 2 letters of recommendation.



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Applications For Individual Grants

Fundable:

- Research,
- writing,
- scholarly monographs,
- synthetic works,
- translation,
- preparation of research tools (e.g., editions, databases),
- archaeological work.

Not fundable:

- Projects that seek to promote a particular political, philosophical, religious, or ideological point of view, or a particular program of social action;
- pedagogical tools (e.g., textbooks);
- creative or performing arts;
- doctoral dissertations or theses.

*Rarely support revisions for readers' reports.



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NEH Funding Rates

Fellowships (FY 2016):

Received 1251 applications, funded 79 (6%)

Summer Stipends (FY 2015):

Received 863 applications, funded 91 (11%)

Public Scholar (FY 2015):

Received 485 applications, funded 36 (7%)



Some Utah Stats, 2000-2016

Total funding in the State of Utah: \$15,287,931

454 total apps. 101 awards 22% success rate



39 Fellowships apps. 3 awards 7.6% success rate
20 Stipends apps. 2 10%



17 Fellowships apps. 3 awards 17.6% success rate
12 Stipends apps. 1 8.3%



20 Fellowships apps. 1 awards 5% success rate
18 Stipends apps. 3 16.6%



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Grants.gov



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FOR APPLICANTS



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Are you or your organization eligible for a grant? Learn how to check your eligibility here.

[Check Your Applicant Eligibility »](#)



Get Registered

To apply, you need to register as either an individual or organization applicant. Begin registering today.

[Individual Registration »](#)
[Organization Applicant Registration »](#)



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Ready to apply? Find instructions for the application download and submission process in Grants.gov.


[Apply for a Grant Opportunity Today »](#)
[Workspace Overview »](#)



Track Your Application

Enter your Grants.gov tracking number to follow the progress of up to five applications at a time.

[Track Your Application »](#)



Adobe Compatibility

Ensure your Adobe Reader or Acrobat software is compatible with Grants.gov.

[Adobe Compatibility Tip Sheet »](#)



Tools & Tips

Access training materials, tips and other resources that will help you successfully navigate Grants.gov.

[Applicant Tools & Tips »](#)
[Grants.gov Online User Guide »](#)



Applicant FAQs

If you have questions, you are not alone. Here are the answers to frequently asked questions.

[Applicant FAQs »](#)



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GRANTS.GOV Applicant Support
1-800-518-4726
support@grants.gov

NEH 101

- NEH is funded by you
- is run by people like you
- makes awards in all areas of the humanities
- 7 divisions and offices offer grants
- all grant information is at neh.gov
- **all applications are peer reviewed**

Stages of Review

Panels

- Peer Reviewers rate and discuss applications

NEH Staff

- NEH Staff write up recommendations

National
Council

- National Council checks and reviews

Chairman

- Chairman makes final decisions



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Peer Review Panels

- Applications grouped by field
- Each set is assigned to a 4 or 5 member panel
- Panelists are recruited for regional, institutional, career, and gender diversity
- Panelists are experts and generalists
- Recruit panelists most likely to give an application a sympathetic read
- Panelists rate 30-40 applications, and generally discuss the top-rated 15 or 20

Some common misconceptions about peer review

- The same panelist kills my application year after year.
- Only elite schools are funded because panelists come from elite schools (old boy's network).
- Panelists don't understand my field.
- Panelists don't appreciate my past work.
- I don't know anyone at NEH, so I will never get funded.
- My application won't get funded because NEH doesn't fund cutting-edge approaches or work in my field.
- I'm too junior to get funded.
- It's too early in my project.

Apply to NEH With a Strong Proposal



Preparation

Start early:

- Give yourself enough time—at least a couple of months
- Consult www.neh.gov
- Register at grants.gov
- Talk with NEH staff
- Talk to your colleagues
- Find the right program
- **Read the guidelines!**



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Tips for Writing I

Be strategic:

- Submit a draft to NEH staff for feedback (Awards for Faculty)
- Read sample narratives (available online)
- Have a colleague outside your field read your proposal
- Read applications for your institution.
- Discuss the application with the letter writers.

Tips for Writing II

Remember who your readers are:

Panels

- Peer Reviewers rate and discuss applications

NEH Staff

- NEH Staff write up recommendations

National
Council

- National Council checks and reviews

Chairman

- Chairman makes final decisions

Tips for Writing II

Remember who your readers are:

- Write for generalists and specialists
- Write clearly and limit jargon
- Address the criteria
- Balance abstraction with examples
- Anticipate and address possible questions

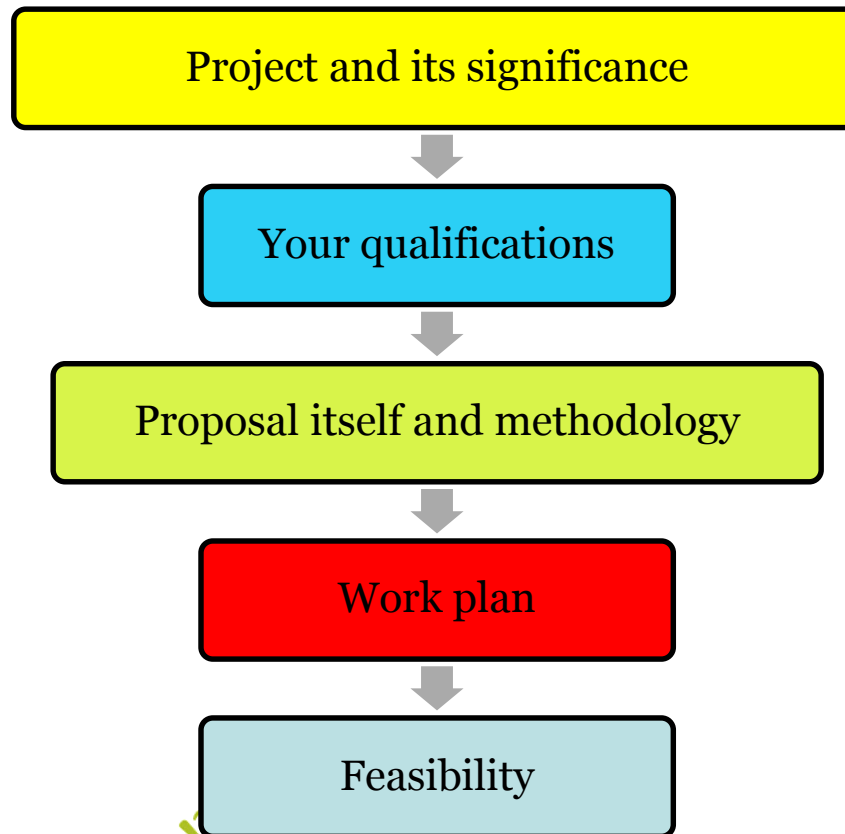
Tips for Writing III

Explicitly address the evaluation criteria:

1. The intellectual significance of the proposed project, including its value to humanities scholars, general audiences, or both.
2. The quality or promise of quality of the applicant's work as an interpreter of the humanities.
3. The quality of the conception, definition, organization, and description of the project and the applicant's clarity of expression.
4. The feasibility of the proposed plan of work, including, when appropriate, the soundness of the dissemination and access plans.
5. The likelihood that the applicant will complete the project.

Tips for Writing III

Explicitly address the evaluation criteria:



Humanities

Tips for Writing IV

Make your case:

- Explain why the project is significant; demonstrate significance, don't just assert it
- Put your topic in a larger context
- Highlight the humanities subject matter
- How does your work fit into existing scholarship in your field?
- Dissertations: What's new?
- Make the work plan explicit and doable
- Don't discuss need or previous applications



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Tips for Writing IV

Make your case:

- All the parts of the application should form a unified argument for funding you
- Your bibliography and CV are important
- Make the narrative clear, convincing, and intriguing
- For a dissertation revision, explain what additional research has been undertaken and take special care with the work plan
- Remember the time constraints of the panelists—grab their attention, don't bore them!



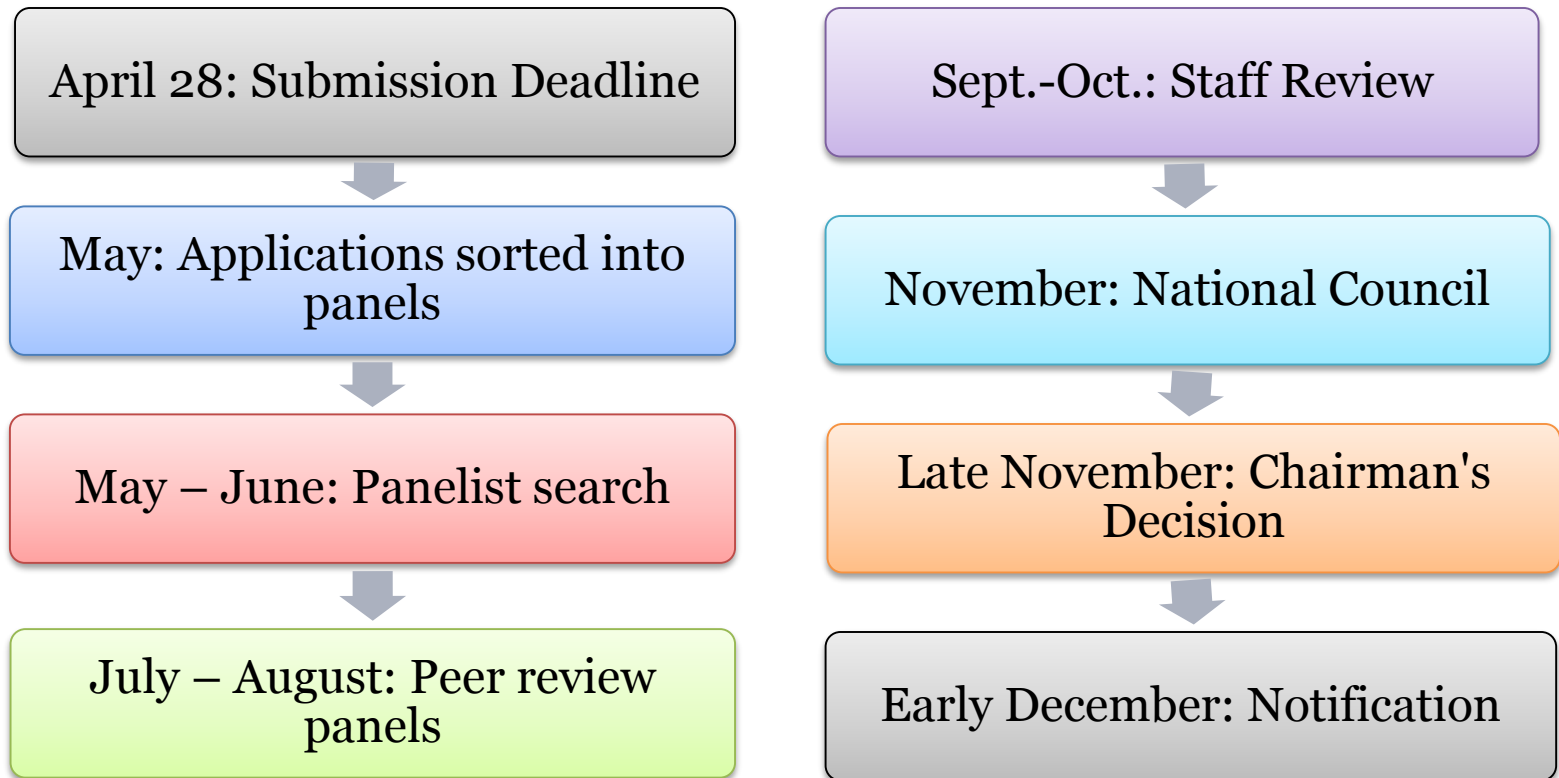
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Before Submitting

Attend to details:

- Consider colleagues' and draft readers' comments
- Make sure your narrative is no longer than three pages—revise, don't use a tiny font
- Check your bibliography and make sure all titles and scholars mentioned in your narrative are included
- Where appropriate, add a one-page appendix with images or a translation sample.
- Proofread carefully!

The 8-month Life of Your Application



Improve Your Chances of Success

- Serve as an NEH panelist
<https://securegrants.neh.gov/prism/>
- Get your reviewers' comments
- Panelists will only know you're applying again if you tell them; bitter words about a previous submission usually distract from your argument and take up space.



NEH Contact

QUESTIONS?

Stefanie Walker

NEH Division of Research Programs

400 7th Street, SW

Washington, DC 20506

swalker@neh.gov

202-606-8478

Also: research@neh.gov / 202-606-8200



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